

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Cohn, Norman, Europe's Inner Demons. NY: Basic Books, 1975. Ch.5.
"The Crushing of the Knights Templar."

The founding of the order during the first crusade in order to give military protection to the crusaders quickly led to their recognition by the Pope. They became established as a powerful force throughout Europe and the Middle East. Their success in military and administrative matters won them wide recognition and support. They became involved in banking, property, trade, and matters of state, especially in France. Their success in worldly affairs made them arrogant and created resentment. The end of the crusades deprived the order of a *raison d'être* and at the beginning of the 14th century Philip the Fair of France found it convenient to solve his financial problems by destroying the order and seizing its property. They were charged with heresy, subjected to the inquisition, tortured, and found guilty. The charge of heresy not only placed them outside of humanity, but also led automatically to the confiscation of their property. Since this was also a period of conflict between church and state, Philip eventually succeeded in forcing a weak Pope to abolish the order. Its members were either burned at the stake or imprisoned. This destruction was only a single chapter in a much larger series of events: the decrease in religious certainty, the real or perceived threats to religious orthodoxy, the suspected increase in the power of the devil, and the persecution of those individuals and groups who were suspected of deviating from the increasingly narrow orthodoxy of the Church of Rome.

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The grading system for the course (for each term) will be as follows:

- 50% for the research paper
- 10% for each of four assignments (incl. abstracts, quizzes, etc.)
- 10% for attendance and participation

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Here are some events that may be of interest to some of you:

Thursday, 29.October, 9:00am, McGill U., Leacock Building 111:
Prof. Werner T. Angress, Dept.of History, State U.of New York
at Stony Brook will speak on "German Jewry during the closing
years of the Weimar Republic."

Same date and place at 9:45am: Prof. Rudolph Binion, Dept.of History,
Brandeis U., will speak on "Hitler's Program and its Relevance
to the Nazi Rise to Power."

These two talks will be followed by a discussion period, and at 3:00pm,
same date and place, there will be a showing of German Political
Films of the 1920s and 1930s, introduced by Prof. Hans Mommsen,
Dept.of History, U.of Bochum.

Thursday, 12.November, 8:30pm, H-110, Lucy Dawidowicz will give a
talk entitled "Historians and the Holocaust."

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